

National Transportation Safety Board

§ 821.35

(2) If the Administrator does not establish good cause for the delay or for imposition of a sanction notwithstanding the delay, the law judge shall dismiss the stale allegations and proceed to adjudicate only the remaining portion, if any, of the complaint.

(3) If the law judge wishes some clarification as to the Administrator's factual assertions of good cause, he or she shall obtain this from the Administrator in writing, with due service made upon the respondent, and proceed to an informal determination of the good cause issue without a hearing. A hearing to develop facts as to good cause shall be held only where the respondent raises an issue of fact in respect of the Administrator's good cause issue allegations.

(b) In those cases where the complaint alleges lack of qualification of the certificate holder:

(1) The law judge shall first determine whether an issue of lack of qualification would be presented if any or all of the allegations, stale and timely, are assumed to be true. If not, the law judge shall proceed as in paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) If the law judge deems that an issue of lack of qualification would be presented by any or all of the allegations, if true, he or she shall proceed to a hearing on the lack of qualification issue only, and he or she shall so inform the parties. The respondent shall be put on notice that he or she is to defend against lack of qualification and not merely against a proposed remedial sanction.

[40 FR 30243, July 17, 1975, as amended at 54 FR 12203, Mar. 24, 1989; 65 FR 42639, July 11, 2000]

Subpart E—Law Judges

§ 821.35 Assignment, duties, and powers.

(a) *Assignment of law judge and duration of assignment.* The chief law judge shall assign a law judge to preside over the proceeding. Until such assignment, motions, requests, and documents shall be addressed to the Docket Section, Office of Administrative Law Judges, for handling by the chief law judge, who may handle these matters personally or who may delegate all or any of them

to other law judges for decision. After assignment, all motions, requests, and documents shall be addressed to that law judge. The authority of the assigned law judge shall terminate upon certification of the record to the Board, or upon expiration of the period within which appeals from initial decisions may be filed, or upon the law judge's withdrawal from the proceeding.

(b) *Powers of law judges.* Law judges shall have the following powers:

(1) To give notice of and to hold pre-hearing conferences and hearings and to consolidate proceedings which involve a common question of law or fact;

(2) To administer oaths and affirmations;

(3) To examine witnesses;

(4) To issue subpoenas and to take or cause depositions to be taken;

(5) To receive evidence and rule upon objections and offers of proof;

(6) To rule upon motions in assigned cases;

(7) To regulate the conduct of the hearing;

(8) To hold conferences, before or during the hearing for the settlement or simplification of issues;

(9) To dispose of procedural requests or similar matters; and

(10) To make initial decisions, and, if so directed by the Board, to certify records with or without recommended decisions.

(c) *Disqualification of a law judge.* A law judge shall withdraw from the proceedings if at any time he or she deems himself disqualified. If, prior to the initial decision, there is filed an affidavit of personal bias or disqualifications, with substantiating facts, and the law judge does not withdraw, the Board will determine the matter as a part of the record and decision in the proceeding, if an appeal from the law judge's initial decision is filed. The Board will not otherwise consider any claim of bias or disqualification as to the law judge's assignment to conduct the hearing. The Board, in its discretion, may order a hearing on a charge of bias or disqualification.

[40 FR 30243, July 17, 1975, as amended at 59 FR 59048, Nov. 15, 1994]